

Washington, DC - On Saturday, December 20, 2008, at 11:00 a.m., Congressman John Barrow (GA-12) will host a toy safety symposium in front of Macy's at the Oglethorpe Mall in Savannah. He will be joined by Dr. Brad Fain of Georgia Tech University's Savannah Campus.

Congressman Barrow invites all parents and other folks shopping for toys for children to stop by and get information on the safety of the toys they're buying for their children this holiday season.

"The vast majority of toys on store shelves are perfectly safe," said Barrow, "but all toys aren't safe for all ages, and the danger posed by some toys isn't always obvious. And some foreign manufacturers have been known to cut corners by making toys with things like lead paint. If folks are at the Mall this Saturday, they can get some information to make sure their holidays are happy and safe."

Here are just some of the toy hazards parents should be aware of:

- Scooters and other riding toys - Riding toys, such as skateboards and in-line skates, can go real fast, and falls can be deadly. Parents should make sure that helmets and safety gear sized to fit and worn at all times.
- Small Balls and other Toys with Small Parts - Toys with small parts can cause choking when swallowed by children younger than three years old. As a result, parents should avoid toys with small parts for children that young.
- Balloons - Children under the age of eight can choke or suffocate on un-inflated or broken balloons. Parents should keep un-inflated balloons from younger children and discard broken balloons at once.
- Magnets - Magnets or pieces with magnets that are swallowed can result in serious injuries or even death. For children under the age of six, parents should avoid building or play sets with small magnets.
- Chargers and Adapters - Chargers and adapters can pose thermal burn hazards to children. As a result, charging batteries should be supervised by adults.

**Who:** ██████████ **Congressman John Barrow**

**What:** ██████████ **Toy Safety Symposium**

**When:** ██████████ **Saturday, December 20, 2008, 11:00 a.m.**

**Where:** ██████████ **Oglethorpe Mall, in front of Macy's, Savannah**

█

**###**